



March 3, 2020

Dear Patients:

The Baton Rouge Clinic is committed to providing the highest level of quality care to you and your loved ones. As concerns about Coronavirus infection, also known as COVID-19, increase we want to make sure you and the members of our community are prepared and informed about the virus.

The Baton Rouge Clinic is closely monitoring the current Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation on a daily basis. We want to ensure you have accurate information and inform you of changes you may encounter in the near future if you are visiting any of our locations.

As of today the CDC reports that most people in the United States have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus and it is not spreading widely in the United States at this time. There are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in Louisiana. The virus is anticipated to become widespread in the near future, however, so staying accurately informed is important to you and your family's health.

Facts about the virus that causes COVID-19:

- The World Health Organization reports that the majority of infected patients are adults. Of confirmed cases in China, only about 2% were patients under 20 years of age.
- The most commonly reported symptoms include fever, dry cough and shortness of breath.
- Most patients (80%) experience mild illness.
- Severe illness is more common in older adults (>60 years old) with chronic health conditions.
- To date, there is no vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat COVID-2019. Those affected should receive care to relieve symptoms and those with serious illness should be hospitalized.

The most effective way to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus like influenza or coronavirus is to wash your hands frequently, avoid sick contacts, stay home when you are sick, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. You should also avoid casual physical contact with others like shaking hands. You should disinfect frequently touched surfaces around your home or work space, especially if someone is ill.

Although we work hard to reduce the spread of infections on a daily basis, we are implementing additional measures at all Baton Rouge Clinic locations. We recommend that all patients with fever and respiratory symptoms (cough, sneezing or shortness of breath) wear a mask when entering a healthcare facility to decrease the chance of infecting others. The CDC does not recommend well patients wear a mask unless you are caring for a person with COVID-19. Use hand sanitizer, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth after touching potentially contaminated surfaces and try to maintain about 3 feet of distance between you and someone who is experiencing coughing or sneezing symptoms.

In addition, should a widespread outbreak occur in our area, we plan to implement further changes to help minimize the risk of well patients or those with other illnesses being exposed to the virus when visiting any of our locations.

Should you have any further questions, please contact your physician.

At the Baton Rouge Clinic we have made it our mission to provide our patients with the highest level of compassionate care through each stage of life. Thank you for allowing us to serve your healthcare needs.